

Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

The 340th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (February 2013 Regular Meeting)

1. Overview

1. Session: February 19th (Tues.) – March 19th (Tues.) 2013: 29 days

2. Assembly Proposals Total: 5

- I. “Partial amendments concerning the salaries of prefectural assemblymen”
- II. “Partial amendments regarding issuance of monies for government surveys conducted on behalf of the prefectural assembly”
- III. “Partial amendments of Miyagi Prefectural Assembly Committee ordinances”
- IV. “Partial amendments of ordinances concerning compensation for actual expenses incurred by parties summoned to appear before the Prefectural Assembly”
- V. “Partial amendments of legislation concerning the salaries of prefectural assemblymen”

3. Resolutions Total: 3

- I. Objection to North Korea’s Underground Nuclear Testing.
- II. Pursuance of the Construction of the International Linear Collider (ILC) in the Tohoku (Northeastern Japan) Region
- III. Pursuance of Construction of a Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Miyagi Prefecture

4. Assembly Suggestions Total: 7

- I. “Pursuance of appropriate counter-measures based on the national good in response to the hasty decisions made in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations”
- II. “Pursuance of the general abolishment of individual guarantor policies”
- III. “Pursuance of the promotion of a diagnosis and medical care structure for ailments such as cerebrospinal fluid hypovolemia and the health insurance coverage of epidural blood patches”
- IV. “Pursuance of counter measures to the surging price of mixed livestock feed”
- V. “Assembly suggestions regarding the generic over-the-counter medication system”
- VI. “Pursuance of government financial support measures for National Health Insurance special accounts in crisis due to the Great East Japan Earthquake”
- VII. “Miscellaneous suggestions in regards to Disabled Persons Abuse Prevention Act and Act on General Support for Disabled Persons”

5. Bills Submitted by the Governor Total: 119

- 2012 Miyagi fiscal year general accounting supplementary budget revisions, etc. (18 items)
- 2013 Miyagi fiscal year general accounting supplementary budget revisions, etc. (15 items)
- Conclusion of construction service contracts, etc. (34 items)

- Proposal to establish the Great East Japan Earthquake Miyagi Memorial Day, etc. (32 items)
- Formalization of comprehensive external auditing of contracts, etc. (20 items)

6. Petitions Total: 2

- “Petition in regards to the regional medical care reform”-----Adopted
- “Petition in regards to subsidization of prescription medication”----Un-Adopted

7. Questions & Inquiries

The 2013 fiscal year marks the final year of the Restoration Stage of the Miyagi Prefecture Recovery Plan. Twenty assembly members made inquiries in regards to the issues and challenges that lie in the coming Reconstruction Stage while two assembly members made general inquiries.

8. Supplementary Opinions Total: 2

I. In regards to the 2012 general accounting budget revisions:

The 2012 budget revisions largely reduce the budget for, amongst others, the two following reasons: the precipitous jump in raw material prices and the lack of workers in the prefecture. These confluence of factors ensued in difficult industrial conditions. In particular, these issues particularly hamper the recovery of the agriculture and fishing industry, Miyagi Prefecture’s primary industrial sectors. In order to bring about recovery as swiftly as possible, the prefecture intends to use all means available as it endeavors to execute recovery programs and policies.

II. In regards to the 2013 General Accounting Budget:

The prefecture is currently endeavoring to obtain from the federal government medical and nursing care fee exemption and partial exemption for those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and for local municipalities bearing such costs. In order to bring about recovery as swiftly as possible, the prefecture intends to use all means available, such as specifying possible beneficiaries of said policies, as it endeavors to keep these exemption measures in effect.

9. Results:

Assembly Proposals	5 items approved
Resolutions	3 items approved
Assembly Suggestions	7 items approved
Bills Submitted by the Governor	119 items approved
Petitions	1 item adopted/1 item un-adopted

2. Main Details of the Assembly Inquiry Session

1. In Regards to Debris Disposal and Housing Reconstruction:

- Inquiry: How is the current situation for debris disposal and temporary housing construction for the affected?
- Reply: The main issues for debris disposal are the acquisition of an area to dispose of the debris

and disposing of sediment brought in by the tsunami. We do feel that we will be able to meet our deadlines for debris disposal. Also, we expect to have completed half of planned temporary housing works by the end of the 2014 fiscal year and intend to work hard in cooperation with local municipalities towards this goal.

2. In Regards to the Implementation of Helicopter Ambulances:

- Inquiry: Could you please tell us about the early implementation of this and in what areas these ambulances would be deployed to?
- Reply: We intend to promote implementation of helicopter ambulances based on the construction feasibility of expansive disaster preparation bases. Locations will be decided via discussion with the Prefectural Emergency Medical Care Council.

3. In Regards to Primary Industry Recovery Issues:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about the structure of the Fishery Industry Special Zone for Reconstruction of the Momonoura area in Ishinomaki City and the recovery of farmland affected by the tsunami.
- Reply: We aim for complete recovery of farmlands within the 2015 fiscal year. In regards to the Momonoura area of Ishinomaki City, we are working in cooperation with the private sector to restore this area.

4. In Regards to Prefectural Public Project Contract Bidding Issues:

- Inquiry: What is the prefecture doing to solve the bidding issue on public projects?
- Reply: We have established a temporary plant for the production of ready-to-use concrete. Also, we are moving forward efforts to simplify and accelerate the bidding procedures in a broad revamping of the public projects bidding system.

5. In Regards to the Disposal of Designated Waste Produce due to the Fukushima Incident:

- Inquiry: What will be done with polluted waste material of 8000 becquerel (unit of radioactivity) and below?
- Reply: We have decided to incinerate said waste together with general household waste. Also, the prefecture will provide ample support to city, towns, and villages engaging in such disposal. The prefecture will also endeavor to provide sound, accurate information on safety so as to avoid further radiation-related stigma.

6. In Regards to Establishing a Memorial Day for Those Lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake:

- Inquiry: Please tell me about the proposed closing of schools on March 11th for the Great East Japan Earthquake Miyagi Memorial Day.
- Reply: We believe that it is of grave importance to foster a sense of responsibility towards Miyagi's recovery in and pass on the lessons learned from the Great Japanese Earthquake to the next generation. The decision of closing schools will be left to the respective

schools to decide based on their recovery conditions and the circumstances of their students.

3. Standing Committees

1. General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee

- Bills were reviewed and voted on, including the provision to establish “the Great East Japan Earthquake Miyagi Memorial Day”

2. Environment, Lifestyle and Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Industry Committee

- A survey was conducted on the current situation and issues facing Takenouchi area of Murata Town in regards to finalizing a disposal area for industrial waste.
- Bills were reviewed and voted on in regards to the public work sub-contracting contracts, including reconstruction of the Shiogama fishing port wharf, etc.

3. Health and Welfare Committee

- A Survey was conducted at the Minami Sanriku, Kesenuma, and Kurihara government office for the purpose of medical service reforms
- Bills were reviewed and voted on, including “provisions on educational loans to combat the shortage of licensed caretakers in the disaster affected areas”

4. Commerce, Industry and Tourism Committee

- Bills were reviewed and voted on, including “partial amendments on the Provision for Extraordinary Funds for the Emergency Creation of Employment.”

5. Construction Enterprise Committee

- Surveys were conducted at Hatsubara of Matsushima Town, Oshiwake of Iwanuma City, and Asohara of Yamamoto Town in regards to the progress of construction of public housing, works on Promoting Group Relocation for Disaster Mitigation, and the reconstruction of roads, canals, and seashores.
- Bills were reviewed and voted on that included the finalization of public works sub-contracting contracts, in particular that of the commencement of construction of temporary public housing for the disaster affected in Arahama area of Watari Town.

6. Education and Public Safety Committee

- Bills were reviewed and voted on that included the Provision for Special Needs Education Concept for the Future Chamber.

4. Special Committees

1. Special Budgetary Committee

On both March 6th and 7th of 2013, a question and answer session comprised of 15 committee

members was held. Afterwards the 2013 fiscal year general accounting budget was ratified after undergoing review by all committees.

5. Miscellaneous

1. Miyagi Prefecture Reconstruction Agency and Opinion Exchange Assembly:

Miyagi Prefecture's Disaster Reconstruction and Recovery Policy Survey Special Committee on April 1st held an opinion exchange assembly with the Miyagi Prefecture Reconstruction Agency. The opinions and requests regarding disaster affected areas have been relayed to both National Vice-Ministers of Recovery, Koichi Tani and Kenya Akiba.